

Schiaparelli, she once overheard someone describe her as Tahitian. While she worked for Pierre Balmain, she recalled, he would not allow her to borrow dresses for a photograph for *Ebony* magazine, fearing that would offend his white clientele. She took the clothes later on the pretext that she would wear them to a party, and the magazine then photographed them.

HONORING REV. DR. JAMES  
ADAMS SPAHR

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 24, 2007*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Rev. Dr. Jane Adams Spahr, a Presbyterian minister committed to justice for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans gender community.

A self-described lesbian and feminist, Janie is retiring after 33 years.

Born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, with her twin sister Joanie to Chet and Susanna Adams, Janie was ordained a Presbyterian Minister in December 1974, to the Hazelwood Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh. From 1975–1979 she served as Assistant Pastor of First Presbyterian in San Rafael, California, and in 1979–1980 was the Executive Director of Oakland Council of Presbyterian Churches where she was encouraged to resign after coming out as a lesbian.

Janie began her “out” liberation work with and for LGBT people as the Minister of Pastoral Care in the Castro area of Metropolitan Community Church in San Francisco from 1980–1982. In 1982, this “lesbyterian” founded the Ministry of Light, which later became the Spectrum Center for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Concerns. She served for 10 years as the Executive Director of Spectrum.

In 1991, Rev. Spahr was called to serve as a co-pastor at the Downtown United Presbyterian Church in Rochester, New York, marking the first time a Presbyterian Church had chosen an “out” pastor. The call, however, was challenged, and the Judicial Commission of the Presbyterian Church refused to allow Rev. Spahr to assume the coposition. In response to the ruling Janie was hired by The Downtown United Presbyterian Church and the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Tiburon, California, who formed the “That All May Freely Serve” project. She was employed to work within the denomination to end discrimination and increase inclusiveness for all people.

In 2006, Rev. Spahr made national headlines when the Commission of the Presbytery of the Redwoods ruled she acted within her “right of conscience” as a Christian when she performed commitment ceremonies for two lesbian couples. The Presbyterian Church’s highest court ruled in 2000 that ministers could “bless” same-sex unions but not preside over them or call them marriages. Janie challenged the church’s constitution and won a victory for justice and inclusion, but the battle is not yet over as the Prosecuting Committee has filed an appeal.

During her undergraduate years at Penn State, Jane met Jim Spahr whom she later married and had two sons, Jim and Chet. Jim

now fondly refers to Janie as his “wife emerita” and the “sister-in-love” of Jackie Spahr (Jim’s partner) and Bill Fenton (her sister Joanie’s partner).

Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor Rev. Dr. Jane Adams Spahr whose courageous passion for justice and inclusion for LGBT people has left a legacy that is paving the way to a better future. Rev. Spahr has touched so many lives as a minister, and though she is retiring she will remain a mentor and role model to all.

LIFT UNREASONABLE RESTRICTIONS ON TAIWAN’S ELECTED LEADERS

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 24, 2007*

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, in November of 2008, citizens of the United States will exercise their constitutional and democratic right to vote in a national election and choose their president. Just eight months prior to our presidential election, our friend across the Pacific, Taiwan, will hold its fourth national direct election for its highest office.

Once a single-party state under martial law, Taiwan made a peaceful transition during the late 1980s and early 1990s to a full-fledged democracy and a multi-party political system that respects human rights and the rule of law.

For over fifty years, our two nations have fostered a close relationship, which has been of mutual political, economic, cultural, and strategic advantage. However, one vital inequity exists that prevents the exchange of views at the highest political levels: the United States government continues to adhere to guidelines from the 1970s that bar the President, Vice President, Premier, Foreign Minister, and Defense Minister of Taiwan from coming to Washington, DC.

Why, when Taiwan is a key player in the Asia-Pacific region, do we prevent their highest-level decision makers from traveling to our nation’s capital? This outdated policy severely limits our direct dialogue with world leaders.

Almost any person born and raised in Taiwan has the freedom to travel to the United States. But when a person is chosen through democratic elections to become the leader of the Taiwanese people, this freedom is inappropriately rescinded by the U.S. government. While the United States attempts to promote democracy around the world, we lock the doors of our capital city to the leaders of fellow democracy.

Rather than symbolically shunning Taiwan’s democratically elected leaders, we should welcome them. I meet with Taiwan’s leaders—both before and after their election. Other American Leaders in Washington, D.C. should have the same opportunity. Unreasonable restrictions on visits to the United States by high-level elected and appointed officials of Taiwan should be lifted. Taiwan deserves this long overdue respect.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 24, 2007*

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I was returning from an official delegation trip to Iraq yesterday, and was therefore absent from the Floor during the four rollcall votes that took place on Monday night.

Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of H.R. 404 (the Federal Customer Service Enhancement Act), H. Res. 553 (Mourning the Passing of Lady Bird Johnson), and H. Res. 519 (Honoring the Life and Accomplishments of Tom Lea). I would have voted against ordering the previous question on H. Res. 558 (the rule providing for consideration of H.R. 3074).

STAR-SPANGLED BANNER  
NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2007*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1388, the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail Act. This bill aims to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Star-Spangled Banner Trail in the States of Maryland and Virginia, as well as through the District of Columbia.

I would first like to begin by commending my distinguished colleague and the representative of Maryland’s 3rd Congressional District, Congressman JOHN P. SARBANES on his work with this very important piece of legislation. As with most national historic trails, its purpose and significance must be examined for its unique characteristics. I applaud the gentleman for his work in aiming to protect and preserve our Nation’s trails.

A national historic trail is an extended trail that follows routes of travel that are typically of historic and national significance. The Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail consists of water and overland routes totaling approximately 290 miles extending from southern Maryland through the District of Columbia and Virginia, and north of Baltimore, Maryland, commemorating the Chesapeake Campaign of the War of 1812, as generally depicted on the maps.

A national historic trail ought to be significant with respect to several facets of American history, ranging from trade and commerce, exploration, migration and settlement, or military campaigns and must have significant potential for public recreational or historic use. The trail ought to be continuous and might include land, water or marked highway segments. The Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail land routes would follow existing public roads, along which British and American troops traveled.

Mr. Speaker, this bill would mandate the administration of this trail by the Secretary of the Interior. The Secretary ought to encourage public participation by communities, owners of land along the trail, and volunteer trail groups